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**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**

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DATE: October 26, 2005

**TO: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
MAIL STOP Amendment  
ART UNIT 1725**

Andrew T. Spence  
Reg. No. 45,699

Confirmation No. 8066

In re: Buford et al.  
Appl. No. 10/706,480  
Filed October 27, 2003  
Title: SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED FRICTION STIR WELDING (FSW) ASSEMBLY, CONTROLLER  
AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FRICTION STIR WELDING OPERATION

Please process the attached the AMENDMENT (7 pages) and fax confirmation to Andrew T. Spence at 704-444-1111. Thank you.

**NO. OF PAGES:** 8  
(Including cover page)

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/706,480  
Applicant(s): Burford et al.  
Filed: October 27, 2003  
Art Unit: 1725  
Examiner: Edmondson, Lynne Renee  
Title: SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED FRICTION STIR WELDING (FSW)  
ASSEMBLY, CONTROLLER AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING  
A FRICTION STIR WELDING OPERATION

Confirmation No.: 8066

Docket No.: 038190/268379  
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT  
37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 26, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.